**Graduation Ceremony discussion notes**

**October 30, 2012**

**Student Recognition Advisory Committee**

* Formal ceremony
* Culminating event
* Tradition is important
* Graduation Matters – this is clearly a value in MCPS, should we consider paying staff for participating in the ceremony?

**Dress**

* Ceremony participants wear robes
* Staff wear black robes and hoods consistent with their degree (if bachelors or no degree, wear MCPS collar which is gold)
* Student recommendation on footwear: clean, comfortable, have a heel connection to avoid tripping

**Music**

Recommended to be consistent:

* *National Anthem*
* Processional – *Pomp and Circumstance*
* Inspirational Interlude – all schools should have one that is performed by students

Okay to be individualized by school and from year to year:

* Recessional music choice
* Inspirational interlude music choice

**Seating (see diagram Sarah will create a diagram)**

Recommended to be consistent:

* Students ALL sit in alphabetical order (get student voice on where 4.0 students sit, e.g. in front row or with classmates, but once decided s/b consistent at all schools and from year to year)
* Faculty sits in front of the student section, in a separate section on one side; staff must RSVP so that seating section is clearly defined and each chair is labeled with staff member’s name
* Stage: Board of Trustees, Administrators, speakers (including student speakers, but they will go to their seats in alphabetical order to sit with their classmates when their speaking role is complete)

**Speakers**

Keynote speaker:

* Chosen by students (through a process developed and worked by student government; be sure to communicate final results to students)

Student speakers:

* Senior Class President
* Senior Class Vice President

Other speakers:

* Superintendent

**Program**

* Processional: *Pomp and Circumstance* (Staff lead students into ceremony during processional, students lead staff out during recessional)
* National Anthem: *Star Spangled Banner*/Color Guard if applicable
* Student welcome, member of the senior class (could be class president, vice president, or other choice), introduce school principal
* Principal introduces all the people on the stage and the inspirational interlude (students)
* Student introduces Key Note speaker, member of the senior class (could be class president, vice president, or other choice)

**Valedictorians???**

* Should we have one valedictorian and salutatorian? If so, how do we choose?
* Should we continue to label all 4.0 students as valedictorians and make Big Sky/Seeley do the same?
* Should we all have an equivalent to the Big Sky Eagle Medallion?